

still concurs, although they of course appear (necessarily) in the comparative lists of the Appendix.

The 'Key' is still entitled to the high favor it has hitherto received, and will prove, as it ever has, a work of the greatest utility. It has, of course, its short-comings, but they detract little from its usefulness. Some of its statements about the nesting-habits of certain species or groups of species are a little too sweeping, and the descriptions of the eggs, as to number and color, not always above criticism, while there are a few lapses of a graver sort. When the fourth edition is called for, as it doubtless ere long will be, the author may then find it expedient to once more recast and perfect a work which has not only proved a great boon to the ornithological public, but has had unquestionably a marked influence upon the progress of ornithology, and done more than any other to make the subject popular and comprehensible to the general reader. — J. A. A.

Townsend's Field-notes on the Birds of Northern California.*— Mr. Townsend's 'Field-notes' were based on observations made in the counties of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen, April 1, 1883, to July 15, 1884, and in Humboldt County, Nov. 15, to Dec. 17, 1885. To make the list of birds as complete as possible for that portion of California north of the fortieth parallel, he has added to the two hundred observed by himself some sixty additional species made known by others as inhabitants of the region, making 261 in all. The list is copiously annotated and contains interesting biographical matter. His account of the nest and eggs of the Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) is especially noteworthy as the first for the species. The bird portion of the paper closes with a table illustrating the vertical range of birds of Northern California, modelled after a similar one in 'The Auk' (Vol. II, 1885, p. 11) by Mr. F. M. Drew on the birds of Colorado.

The 'Field-notes' on the mammals and reptiles are equally full and interesting, but of course call for no special remark in the present connection. A useful sketch-map of the region accompanies the paper, and several pages of introductory matter describes the topographical features of the country under notice. — J. A. A.

Shufeldt's Contributions to Avissection.† — Dr. Shufeldt continues his admirable avisections. His latest article reviews some of the taxonomically important musculatures. These are, namely, five pectorimyon;‡

*Field-notes on the Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles of Northern California. By Charles H. Townsend. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, pp. 159-241. (Birds, pp. 190-237.)

†A Review of the Muscles Used in the Classification of Birds. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D., C. M. Z. S., Captain Medical Corps, U. S. Army, etc. Journ. Compar. Med. and Surg., Oct. 1887. 24 pp.

‡*Myon*, any individual unit of musculature; what Dr. Coues formerly called a "muscular integer." — *Pectorimyon*, any myon of the pectoral arch or shoulder girdle proper. — *Pelvimyon*, any myon of the pelvic arch or hip girdle.